

CLAYBANK DETENTION FACILITY

2006-2007 Solano County Grand Jury

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION

California Penal Code §919 subsection (b) provides: "The Grand Jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county." Pursuant to the statute, the 2006-2007 Grand Jury inspected the Claybank Detention Facility.

GRAND JURY ACTIONS

- Met and received an overview of facility operations by the Commander and staff
- Interviewed staff
- Toured and inspected the facility
- Received orientation on the following programs: Electronic Monitoring, Work Furlough, After Release Work and the pending Global Positioning Satellite Monitoring
- Reviewed the California Standards Authority facility inspection report

BACKGROUND / SUMMARY

The 91,000 square foot Claybank Detention Facility (the facility) opened in 1979. The facility is staffed, operated and commanded by the Solano County Sheriff's Department. The facility is on 37 acres of land located at 2500 Claybank Road, Fairfield, California. It is a Type II facility, which means it is a local detention facility used for the detention of persons pending arraignment, trial, sentencing and fulfilling commitment. No bookings occur at this facility. The facility is currently fully staffed with 46 uniform and non-uniform personnel. Current bed capacity is 411. Plans are currently in place to increase bed capacity by 512. On the day of inspection, there were 74 female and 378 male inmates in-custody.

Our inspection revealed that due to security concerns, the dining area and dayrooms in two areas are not fully utilized. The facility was clean and neat. The grounds were well maintained.

The Commander and staff established a Good Behavior Program for qualified inmates. Inmates are given extra privileges in exchange for exhibited good behavior over a specified period of time. Several programs are available for the inmates. Minimum Security inmates can volunteer for landscaping, kitchen duties and many other in-custody work activities. Courses are available for all inmates interested in obtaining a General Education Diploma (GED). Support services are available such as Life Skills, Keys to Recovery, Nurturing and Family Services.

With the cooperation of the Solano County Animal Shelter, a Kitten Raising Program is available for the female inmates. Electronic Monitoring and Work Furlough Programs are available for the inmates meeting certain criteria. Electronic Monitoring allows low risk offenders the opportunity to work, attend court ordered rehabilitation programs and to stay at home in lieu of going to jail. According to the Sheriff's Department data, the Electronic Monitoring Program saved county taxpayers over \$2 million dollars between September 2005 and September 2006. Work Furlough provides eligible inmates a means to continue school or work while incarcerated.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding 1 – The designated dining area and dayrooms in the housing units appear to be under utilized.

Recommendation 1 - The Sheriff and staff should find ways to utilize these areas consistent with security concerns.

Finding 2 - The Electronic Monitoring Program appears to be cost effective. The program contributes to reducing overcrowding.

Recommendation 2 - Continue to expand and monitor the program for cost effectiveness consistent with safety and security concerns.

Finding 3 - The Life Skills Program and the Kitten Raising Program appear to be beneficial to all participating inmates.

Recommendation 3 - These programs should be continued and enhanced when possible.

Finding 4 – The Good Behavior Program was implemented and appeared to be successful.

Recommendation 4 - This program should be monitored closely for potential abuse to ensure that safety and security concerns are not compromised.

COMMENTS

The Claybank Detention Facility is used for housing inmates pending arraignment, trial, sentencing or fulfilling commitment. On the day of inspection, the facility was clean, neat and odor free.

Construction of a 512-bed unit at the Claybank Detention Facility is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2007. The additional beds should alleviate anticipated overcrowding. The sheriff placed a priority on staffing throughout the department and launched an aggressive recruiting campaign. As a result, the Claybank Detention Facility is fully staffed.

The Grand Jury compliments the Sheriff's Department for exhibiting an outstanding effort in providing safety, security and service at the Claybank Detention Facility.

AFFECTED AGENCIES

- Solano County Sheriff/Coroner's Office
- Solano County Board of Supervisors